

WHALE SHARKS OF ISLA MUJERES



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"Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres"

ISLA MUJERES

A visit to Isla Mujeres is one of the most intense experiences you can find on the Mexican Caribbean. Surrounded by gentle, startlingly turquoise waters, this small Caribbean island is part of the state of Quintana Roo, and offers a variety of tourist activities with its uniquely beautiful natural parks.

Francisco Hernandez de Córdoba discovered Isla Mujeres, which means "Island of the Women", in 1517. He chose this name because the number of idols of women floating on the sea surprised him. What this explorer was not to know is that the idols were offerings to the goddess Ixchel, a deity concerned with fertility, love and the moon, for whom the island was sacred. It was a place where the Maya prayed for the prosperity of their land, for the health of their unborn children and cures for their illnesses.

The island of Isla Mujeres is located eight miles off the coast of Cancun, Mexico, and one hour door-to-door from Cancun International Airport. With crystal-clear turquoise waters, white sand beaches, and almost perfect year-round weather, the island is a haven for beach and water sport enthusiasts. Approximately five miles long and less than a half-mile wide, the island is ideal for exploring via golf cart, moped or bicycle. The island's center, a vibrant fishing village with many shops and restaurants, is a short walk from the hotel. Due to its close proximity to Cancun and Riviera Maya, Isla Mujeres is also a wonderful starting point for discovering the Yucatan and its many archaeological sites.

WHALE SHARKS

Whale Sharks (Rhiniodon Typus) are harmless sharks, not whales. They are the largest fish in the ocean, reaching over 50' (15 m) and over 27,000 lb (12,500 kg). The largest aggregation ever reported in the world occurs very close to Isla Mujeres and the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula with up to 420 whale sharks observed in a single aerial survey and with all gathered in an elliptical patch of ocean approximately 18 square kilometers.

Whale sharks are filter feeders and their favorite meal is plankton. In order to feed, they scoop these tiny plants and little animals, with their colossal gaping mouths while swimming close to the water's surface. Although massive, whale sharks are docile fish. You can safely snorkel with them while they are feeding on the surface. Each encounter allows for two people to enter the water at a time along with your guide. During the trip you may also have the opportunity to see large manta rays, dolphins, turtles and all kinds of sea life. This is truly an amazing experience.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 CANCUN ~ ISLA MUJERES

Welcome to Mexico – After leaving the Cancun International Airport you will be transferred to the Gran Puerto Cancun dock to get to Isla Mujeres by ferry. Your ticket for the ferry will be given to you by the transfer driver; upon arrival to Isla Mujeres you will be transferred to the Hotel Secreto to check-in to your room. The remaining part of the day you'll have to explore Isla Mujeres and enjoy the amenities of the Hotel Secreto.

DAY 2 ISLA MUJERES ~ WHALE SHARKS ~ DAY 1

Continental breakfast at the Hotel Secreto lounge area prior to departing at 7:00 am from the PEMEX dock in downtown Isla Mujeres. See and snorkel with the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres. Return to Isla Mujeres between 2 & 3 PM with time to explore the island or relax at the Hotel Secreto pool and beach.

DAY 3 ISLA MUJERES ~ WHALE SHARKS ~ DAY 2

Continental breakfast at the Hotel Secreto lounge area prior to departing at 7:00 am from the PEMEX dock in downtown Isla Mujeres. See and snorkel with the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres. Return to Isla Mujeres by 2 PM with time to explore the island or relax at the Hotel Secreto pool and beach.

DAY 4 ISLA MUJERES ~ WHALE SHARKS ~ DAY 3

Continental breakfast at the Hotel Secreto lounge area prior to departing at 7:00 am from the PEMEX dock in downtown Isla Mujeres. See and snorkel with the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres. Return to Isla Mujeres by 2 PM with time to explore the island or relax at the Hotel Secreto pool and beach.

DAY 5 ISLA MUJERES ~ CANCUN

We will depart from picturesque Isla Mujeres and the beautiful Hotel Secreto to catch the ferry to return to the Cancun International Airport.

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL SECRETO

Selected by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine as one of the 50 best new hotels in the world. Secreto is a sleek twelve-room hideaway. Nestled on a cove, Secreto sits on the quietest corner of the northern tip of Isla Mujeres.

All junior suite rooms at the Hotel Secreto combine the sleeping and living areas. The junior suites offer a breezy open design. Open the floor-to-ceiling Kommerling glass doors and be lulled to sleep by the sea breeze and the sound of crashing waves. Extra thick glass, interior walls, and front door help lock out sounds of neighbors. Sleep in the comfort of Secreto's signature bed – Pacific Coast Bedding with 350 thread-count linens layered between a pillow-top mattress, featherbed, down-filled duvet and goose-down pillows. Amenities include safe box, cordless phone, Linksys Wireless-G Access Point, 42" Plasma TV, Bose Sound Dock for your iPod, DVD, 12-foot long floor mirror, crisp cotton robes, hairdryer, iron/iron board, alarm clock, individual climate control, wine opener, and selection of red/white wine, highball and lowball drinking glasses. All hotel rooms feature native stone floors, Lutron dimming lighting, and all hallways are secured via closed circuit television security cameras.

The hotel's lap pool is among the most unique pools in the world. Over twenty meters long, the freestanding cube is dramatically perched above the cove so guests can take in the panoramic view of the ocean. With its glassy surface blurring the line between pool and ocean, one seems to swim towards the far horizon.

The Spa at Secreto and the Life Fitness Gym includes a weight room with state-of-the-art cardio equipment by Life Fitness. The Spa features luxurious sauna rooms, rejuvenating massages and facials, nail and pedicure treatments, as well as other beauty spa treatments on hand to beautify the body. Spa beauty treatments from skilled therapists are enjoyed in the privacy of guest rooms.

WHAT TO BRING

Space is always limited when traveling abroad, so please pack your gear in soft bags for easy stowage. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear, hoodies for those cool days, synthetic quick dry clothing for days on the boat, sandals or soft-soled shoes, numerous levels of sunscreen, a wide brimmed hat, sun glasses, wind breaker or jacket is recommended to keep you warm from the wind and rain. Bring comfortable clothing for evenings out on the town and exploring the island. Your snorkeling gear should consist of a mask, snorkel, pair of full foot fins and a 3mm wetsuit (you must wear a life preserver if you don't wear a wet suit).

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

The weather on Isla Mujeres is usually what you hope for... perfect! The average temperature is around 80 degrees. The humidity can get pretty high during the summer months, so when weather reports the temperature as 85°, "it feels like 95°". . During the winter months, occasionally there is a "Norte" which brings a cold front from the north so be sure to bring a sweater or light jacket for the evenings. The winter months are the driest with only an occasional afternoon shower. Even when it's raining in Isla Mujeres it's usually sunny. The summer months are wetter but the storms pass by quickly unless there is a tropical depression. The official hurricane season is from June through November but September and October are the months when tropical storms and hurricanes are most likely. It is always a good idea to purchase travel insurance, even more so during hurricane season.

GUIDE GRATUITIES

Guide gratuities will be at the discretion of each guest and are not included. We prefer that guests reward the guide based on their performance. It is customary to tip 15%-20% (\$250.00 to \$300.00 p.p.).

DATES & PRICES

June 28th to July 2nd or July 2nd to July 6th, 2013

Cost ~ \$2095.00 p.p., double occupancy

WHAT'S INCLUDED

All arrival and departure (airport, ferry and hotel) transfers, all accommodations, continental breakfast (boat day departures) all boat fees and taxes, box lunch, snacks and refreshments onboard, welcome cocktail orientation, farewell dinner, hotel and ground transfer gratuities.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Trip interruption or Cancellation Insurance, International airfare to Mexico, golf cart rental (\$55.00 per day), food and beverages (unless listed above), sundries, personal items, excess baggage fees and guide gratuities.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A non-refundable deposit of \$800.00 per person for the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres Adventure is due within 7 days of your reservation, final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. All payments are non-refundable, but transferable. We recommend the purchase of cancellation insurance policy in case of unexpected changes in your plans. Accident, medical, and baggage insurance are also recommended. Ask your travel or insurance agent to help you with these details. You will be required to complete and sign a "Waiver Of Claims, Express Assumption Of Risk, Release Of Liability, And Indemnity Agreement" form at the time of your initial reservation confirmation.